Part I (Collaborative Q&A)

1. <u>For all:</u> To what extend do you agree or disagree with the following USDA definitions?
    a. "Urban agriculture is loosely defined as the production, distribution, and marketing of food and other products within the geographical limits of a metropolitan area. This includes community and school gardens, backyard and rooftop plots, and non-traditional methods of caring for plants and animals within a constrained area."
    b. "Community gardens are plots of land, usually in urban areas, that are rented by individuals or groups for private gardens or are for the benefit of the people caring for the garden."
2. <u>For all:</u> What do you view as the most pertinent benefits of community gardens (i.e., environmental, social, health, education, financial, etc.)?
3. <u>For community gardens:</u> How do you sustain your operation financially (i.e., foundation grants, federal or state grants, private donations, crowdsourcing, selling products, corporate sponsorship, etc.)?
    a. What are your largest expenses?
    b. What are your largest barriers to adequate and sustainable funding?
    c. We know that funds for dedicated staff would advance community garden initiatives. What staffing models best provide long-term operational sustainability?
4. <u>For all:</u> What solutions would encourage the expansion of pre-existing community gardens both public and private (i.e., networks, knowledge sharing, transportation, financial resources, streamlined processes, land ownership, local laws and regulations, educational resources, and transfer of knowledge, etc.)?
    a. <u>For community gardens:</u> What were the largest barriers that you faced when building your community garden? If you could go back in time, what do you wish existed to mitigate those barriers?
    b. <u>For agencies:</u> What have you witnessed as the largest barriers for community gardens to be able to comply with guidelines or legislative directives?
5. <u>For all:</u> What resources do you think would facilitate better collaboration with local food assistance programs and food banks?
    a. What operations do you currently have in place to ensure that members within your local community benefit from your garden? In what areas do you wish to improve?
    b. What resources would help you expand and/or establish community gardens located in 'food deserts' or in areas that are nutritionally insecure?
6. <u>For community gardens:</u> Do you currently have after-school programs in operation?
    a. If yes, what resources would help you maintain and expand these programs?
    b. If no, what do you believe would help you establish after-school programs?
7. <u>For community gardens:</u> What barriers do you face when increasing opportunities for seniors (60+ years of age) to participate in community gardens and intergenerational programming?
8. <u>For all:</u> What barriers do you face when encouraging healthier lifestyles and wellness, particularly in relation to adult and childhood obesity?
    a. What solutions would help you encourage healthier lifestyles (i.e., information sharing, cooking and nutrition classes, food preservation workshops, gardening workshops, affordable access after growing season, etc.)?
    b. What solutions are inclusive to all ages, demographics, and cultural relevancies?

Part II (Open Discussion)

1. Identify by consensus top priorities on which to focus.